

ADJOURNED SESSION OF THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF BROOKE COUNTY,

WEST VIRGINIA, HELD TUESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2022.

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The County Commission of Brooke County, West Virginia met in adjourned session this 30th day of August, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. at the Courthouse.

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Present: Andrew J. Thomas, President
Stacey Wise, Commissioner
Tim Ennis, Commissioner
Kimberly M. Barbetta, Clerk

The Commission held their preliminaries before the meeting including a prayer and the pledge of allegiance.

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Commissioner Stacey Wise made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Tim Ennis and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of the meeting held on August 23, 2022.

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A copy of the following correspondences was given to each of the Commissioner's for their review:

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Commissioner Tim Ennis made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Stacey Wise and unanimously passed to approve the Official Statement regarding the proposed Constitutional Amendment 2.

Preamble: During the 2022 General Election, West Virginians will be asked to vote on Amendment 2, one of the most substantial changes to West Virginia's Constitution in nearly 100 years. It is not the place of the Brooke County Commission to tell registered voters how to vote on this issue. However, the County Commission has a duty pursuant to Article IX, § 11, of the West Virginia Constitution to manage the police and fiscal affairs of Brooke County and, therefore, must inform the public of the potentially devastating and far-reaching impacts that Amendment 2 could have on public safety and local government services in Brooke County:

WHEREAS, the Brooke County Commission finds that the passage of Amendment 2 will cause the removal of constitutional protection that provides critical funding for law enforcement, fire protection, emergency medical services, and public education; and,

WHEREAS, the Commission finds that more than five hundred million dollars in necessary funding for first responders, county and city services, and schools in all 55 counties could be stripped away and placed at risk, resulting in fewer police officers, firefighters, emergency responders, and teachers and school service personnel; and,

WHEREAS, the Commission finds there is no legislative plan for Amendment 2, as a real plan to implement the serious changes contemplated by Amendment 2 requires the passage of legislation by the House and Senate. Here, there is no consensus, no agreement, and no clear plan that the voters can read and understand before they cast their vote; and,

WHEREAS, the Commission finds that any legislative plan to provide revenue replacement to local governments and schools must consider the up and down history of West Virginia's finances and that State revenues are prone to times of boom or bust, and further must consider the forthcoming healthcare cost crisis that is facing all local governments; and,

WHEREAS the Commission finds that it is the residents of the State of West Virginia, including the hardworking residents of Brooke County, that will ultimately pay for the significant corporate tax cuts contemplated by Amendment 2 and will do so through new sales taxes or fees; and,

WHEREAS, the Commission finds that as we soon approach the General Election, the voters deserve a final, codified, and agreed to legislative plan for Amendment 2, not a "work-in-progress" proposal that, if implemented, could devastate and defund public safety and public education in all 55 counties in West Virginia; and,

NOW, THEREFORE be it resolved that the Brooke County Commission, for the reasons above, shall not offer support for Amendment 2 due to the real and serious risks it poses to public safety and public education, and further be it resolved that the Brooke County Commission calls on every local government in West Virginia take a public position on Amendment 2 stating its reasons for either supporting or not supporting the same.

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Negotiations are an ongoing process between the Brooke County Commission and the Brooke County Board of Education regarding Police Officers in the schools.

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Commissioner Ennis spoke of three (3) deaths that all has affected Brooke in some way. Alice Esposto - Breezy Heights Tavern & Restaurant, Dottie Thomas - Ohio County Library Director and Ron Mauck- Teacher & Coach. Our condolences go to each family.

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The Brooke County Courthouse will be CLOSED Monday September 5, 2022 in observation of Labor Day.

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The above correspondences were ordered filed in the County Clerk's Office.

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Invoices and vouchers were approved and the following checks were ordered written:

Payroll Withholdings	ACH - \$686.74
	CKS - 28131-28138 for \$4,231.28
General County	001 CKS - 28119-28130 for \$8,233.67
E-911 Communications	007 CKS - 2876-2877 for \$119.04
Ambulance	025 CKS - 5869-5877 for \$77,208.61
Fire Levy	028 CKS - 2255-2265 for \$11,259.35
Shelter Levy	030 CKS - 1555 for \$400.00

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No further business to come before the Commission a motion was made by Stacey Wise, seconded by Tim Ennis, and unanimously passed to adjourn.

Andrew J. Thomas, President

Teste:

Kimberly M. Barbetta, Clerk

